

Claims

We claim:

5 1. In a digital television system comprising a plurality of receivers coupled to a program source, a method for providing subscriber conferencing with program delivery comprising the steps of:

coupling a program source to a plurality of digital television (DTV) receivers;
delivering a program from the program source to the DTV receivers coupled

10 thereto; and

enabling a conference between the coupled DTV receivers during program delivery.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

15 sending a billing message to one or more of the coupled DTV receivers according to program viewing or conferencing activity.

3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

20 providing to one or more coupled DTV receiver a personalized commercial message.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein:

each coupled DTV receiver comprises a video camera, such that the conference comprises a multi-way video conference between coupled DTV receivers.

25 5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

adding or removing a DTV receiver coupled to the program source during program delivery.

6. A digital television system comprising:
a program source; and
a plurality of digital television (DTV) receivers coupled to the program source;
wherein a program is deliverable from the program source to the DTV receivers,
5 and a conference is enabled between the coupled DTV receivers

7. The system of Claim 6 wherein:
each DTV receiver comprises a video camera, such that the conference comprises
a video conference between coupled DTV receivers.

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8. Digital television apparatus comprising:
a display, a camera, and an interface;
wherein the interface couples to a program source for presentation of a program
by the display, the interface receiving a conference signal from a conference participant for
15 presentation of a video conference by the display, and the camera generating a video signal
for transmission to the conference participant.

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